

## Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FMC-04

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 SCEM-02 SCI-06 INT-08

TRSE-00 /093 W

----- 096157

R 141503Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2366

UNCLAS LAGOS 0273

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, NI

SUBJ: DECLINE IN VOLUME OF SHIPPING IN APAPA PORTS COMPLEX

1. JANUARY 11 DAILY TIMES CARRIES FRONT PAGE ARTICLE HIGH-LIGHTING DECLINE IN NUMBER OF SHIPS BERTHING AT APAPA AND LAGOS IN RECENT MONTHS. PORTS MANAGER B.M. TUKUR QUOTED AS ATTRIBUTING DECLINE TO WORLDWIDE BUNKERS SHORTAGE WHICH HAS FORCED SHIPPING COMPANIES TO CURTAIL SOME VOYAGES AND REDUCE SPEED ON OTHERS TO ECONOMIZE ON FUEL. ACCORDING TO TUKUR. ONLY 98SHIPS BERTHED AT APAPA IN DECEMBER 1973, AS OPPOSED TO 136 IN SAME PERIOD 1972.

2. COMMENT: WORLD-WIDE FUEL SHORTAGE IS CERTAINLY ONE CAUSE OF SHIPPING DECLINE. TRADE SOURCES HOWEVER ALSO CITE CURRENT FREIGHT SHORTAGE, BOTH INBOUND AND OUTBOUND, AS EQUALLY IMPORTANT CAUSE IN LAGOS. TWO MAJOR EXAMPLES WOULD BE (A) WORLD-WIDE CEMENT SHORTAGE, WHICH ONE SOURCE ESTIMATES AS CUTTING DOWN LAGOS TRAFFIC BY THREE SHIPS ON ANY GIVEN DAY AS COMPARED TO PRE-SHORTAGE SITUATION, AND (B) DRASTIC RECENT DECLINE IN NIGERIAN EXPORT CROPS, PARTICULARLY GROUNDNUTS, DUE IN PART TO NORTHERN DROUGHT.

3. SOURCES FORESEE FURTHER DECLINE IN SHIPPING HERE AS

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MOST RECENT ROUND OF FUEL PRICE INCREASES MAKE THEMSELVES

FELT IN CONSIDERABLY HIGHER SHIPPING FREIGHT RATES AND  
HENCE HIGHER PRICES FOR IMPORTED PRODUCTS IN NIGERIA.  
WITH HIGHER-THAN-USUAL FREIGHT RATE INCREASES EXPECTED  
SOON, RETAIL PRICES OF SOME IMPORTED GOODS - PARTICULARLY  
CONSUMER GOODS - EXPECTED TO RISE DRAMATICALLY. THIS  
COULD DISCOURAGE MARGINAL CONSUMER BUYING AND EVENTUALLY  
HAVE NOTICEABLE EFFECT ON VOLUME OF IMPORTS.

4. DELAY TIME FOR BERTHING IN LAGOS PORTS REPORTED TO  
BE DOWN TO 1-2 DAYS, FROM AN AVERAGE OF 3-5 DAYS THIS TIME  
LAST YEAR.  
CROSBY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIPS, PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES, PORT FACILITIES, SHIPYARDS, FUELING SYSTEMS, PRICES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974LAGOS00273  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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